

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method of coating a stent comprising:

adding polymeric particles containing a therapeutic substance to a fluid form of a stent coating material, wherein the coating material ~~comprises~~ ~~includes~~ a polymeric material dissolved in a solvent, such that the polymeric particles containing the therapeutic substance are suspended in the coating material;

applying the fluid form of the coating material comprising the polymeric particles added thereto to a stent; and

solidifying the coating material to a film layer by allowing the solvent to evaporate, wherein the film layer ~~comprises~~ ~~includes~~ the polymeric particles containing the therapeutic substance.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein the polymeric particles are made by water-in-oil emulsion.

31. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein the polymeric particles have a hydrogel consistency.

32. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein the therapeutic substance is for the treatment of restenosis.
33. (Cancelled)
34. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 25, wherein the film layer comprises ~~includes~~ the polymeric material encasing the polymeric particles.
35. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein the polymeric material dissolved in the solvent is selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol, ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymers, polyurethanes, and copolymers and mixtures thereof.
36. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 35, wherein the polymeric material dissolved in the solvent is a polyurethane.
37. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 35, wherein the polymeric material dissolved in the solvent is polyvinyl alcohol.
38. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 35, wherein the polymeric material dissolved in the solvent is an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer.
39. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein the coating material further comprises a second therapeutic substance that may be the same as or different from the therapeutic substance of the polymeric particles.
40. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein a polymer of the polymeric particles is different from the polymeric material of the coating material.
41. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein the coating material is free from any therapeutic substances.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein the film layer is free from any therapeutic substances such that the therapeutic substance is encased only in the polymeric particles.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 42, wherein a polymer of the polymeric particles is different from the polymeric material of the coating material.

44. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the polymeric particles comprise a polymer, the constituent monomer of the polymer or at least one constituent monomer of the polymer being vinyl pyrrolidone.

45. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the polymeric particles comprise a polymer, the constituent monomer of the polymer or at least one constituent monomer of the polymer being polyethylene glycol diacrylate.

46. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the polymeric particles comprise poly(alginate).

47. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the polymeric particles comprise cellulose acetate phthalate.